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REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, paragraphs have been amended on pages 2 and 8.

Claims 1-11 are requested to be cancelled.

Claims 12-22 are being added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

A telephonic examiner interview took place on November 29, 2006, concerning the above-referenced patent application. The participants of the interview discussed pending independent claims 12 and 22, along with U.S. Patent Nos. 5,666,151 (Kondo) and 6,058,288 (Reed). No exhibits were shown nor were any demonstrations conducted.

After amending the claims as discussed in the examiner interview and as set forth above, claims 12-22 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-11 were rejected under § 103 (a) as being obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,666,151 by Kondo et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,058,288 by Reed et al. Applicant respectfully submits that neither reference, alone or in combination, renders obvious that which is claimed in the present application. Applicant has since canceled claims 1-11 and now presents claims 12-22, none of which are anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

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Independent Claim 12

Claim 12 is not rendered obvious under § 103 (a) by U.S. Patent No. 5,666,151 by Kondo et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,058,288 by Reed et al. Neither Kondo nor Reed teaches or suggests claim 12 because neither reference teaches or suggests a method comprising: (i) "retrieving a system configuration of the passenger entertainment system, wherein the system configuration is retrievable upon activating the passenger entertainment system," (ii) "mapping at least one of the plurality of RF channels to the programming signals assigned to the stored digital media, such that the at least one RF channel is configured to transmit multiple programming signals on a single RF channel based on the hardware configuration of the passenger entertainment system, wherein the RF channels are mapped to the programming signals independent of an equally-distributive relationship between the RF channels and the programming signals," or (iii) "displaying on the passenger control unit the program channel corresponding to the programming signal, such that the passenger control unit enables a user to toggle between program channels, wherein the RF channels are configured to be mapped independent of an equally-distributive relationship with the programming signals."

With regard to claim 12, no proper combination of Kondo and Reed teaches or suggests the subject matter of claim 12. First, in connection with the "retrieving a system configuration of the passenger entertainment system, wherein the system configuration is retrievable upon activating the passenger entertainment system" recitation of independent claim 12, neither Kondo nor Reed teach this aspect of claim 12. Kondo teaches a system having "twenty digital video signal providers ... and one analog video signal provider," wherein the system can be configured "to increase the number of the analog video signal providers and to reduce the number of the digital video signal providers ... so that the total number of [the video] signal providers remains 21." (Kondo, col. 5, lines 20-25.) Although, as indicated by the Examiner, the Kondo reference discloses the ability to change the number of channels for the digital video signals by changing the compression rate of the signal (*see* col. 4, lines 41-44 and various portions of the Reed reference, including col. 5, lines 56-65 and col. 6, lines 26-55), the system in Kondo is not

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configured to “retriev[e] a system configuration of the passenger entertainment system ... upon activating the passenger entertainment system.” The system configuration, as taught by Kondo, is not automatically retrieved because the system disclosed in Kondo may only be reconfigured to alter the number of digital video signals via video data compression and decompression. Further, the system in Kondo is not configured to include an aircraft configuration system for *retrieving* and establishing an aircraft configuration and storing the configuration data in a database in order to generate digital programming based on the retrieved configuration data. (See Specification, p. 6, para. 1.) Therefore, Kondo does not teach or suggest this limitation of claim 12.

Also with regard to the “retrieving a system configuration of the passenger entertainment system” recitation of claim 12, Reed does not teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 12. Reed teaches a system for providing information signals to several remote display monitors (see col. 27, lines 55-61), wherein the various entertainment servers may be used to provide a signal to the display monitors. However, the present recitation of claim 12 requires that the system be configured to “*retriev[e] a system configuration of the passenger entertainment system, wherein the system configuration is retrievable upon activating the passenger entertainment system.*” The data relating to the hardware configuration is *retriev[ed] ... upon activating the passenger entertainment system* in order to assess the system requirements (i.e., determine program channel mapping). No such teaching is shown in Reed or Kondo. Therefore, neither Kondo nor Reed render obvious the teachings of the present claim.

Secondly, in connection with the “mapping at least one of the plurality of RF channels to the programming signals assigned to the stored digital media, such that the at least one RF channel is configured to transmit multiple programming signals on a single RF channel based on the hardware configuration of the passenger entertainment system, wherein the RF channels are mapped to the programming signals independent of an equally-distributive relationship between the RF channels and the programming signals” recitation of independent claim 12, neither Kondo nor Reed teach this aspect of claim 12. Kondo discloses a system having twenty digital video signal providers with four discs each on which video signals are digitally compressed. In total,

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these video signals provide 80 channels of digital video signals, i.e., $20 \times 4 = 80$ channels. (See col. 4, lines 25-29.) Kondo also discloses an alternative embodiment, wherein the compression rate may be altered such that the twenty digital video signal providers could provide six channels of video signals each, totaling 120 channels, i.e., $20 \times 6 = 120$ channels. (See col. 4, lines 30-44.) However, the Kondo reference does not disclose a system wherein "the RF channels are mapped to the programming signals independent of an equally-distributive relationship between the RF channels and the programming signals." The system of the present claim is configured so that RF channels and the programming channels are not dependent on an equally distributed or proportionately corresponding relationship. For example, the system may be configured so that RF channel numbers 1-10 may each be assigned to one program channel, RF channel number 11 may be assigned to up to fifteen different program channels, RF channel 12-13 may be assigned to one program channel with up to fifteen video streams, and so on. (See Fig. 6 of the originally filed application.) Therefore, claim 12 is not rendered obvious by the Kondo or Reed reference or any proper combination thereof.

Lastly, in connection with the "displaying on the passenger control unit the program channel corresponding to the programming signal, such that the passenger control unit enables a user to toggle between program channels, wherein the RF channels are configured to be mapped independent of an equally-distributive relationship with the programming signals" recitation, neither Kondo nor Reed teach this aspect of claim 12. Kondo teaches a system for providing a video signal to a liquid crystal monitor to display the video image. However, this recitation of claim 12 requires that the system "display[] *on the passenger control unit* the program channel" for programming content displayed on that channel" (emphasis added). (See Specification, p. 13, para. 2; Figure 9.) The system in Kondo does not teach or suggest such a step of displaying the program channel on the passenger control unit display. Further, this recitation requires that "the passenger control unit enables a user to toggle between program channels, wherein the RF channels are configured to be *mapped independent of an equally-distributive relationship with the programming signals*." Kondo discloses a system having twenty digital video signal providers with four discs each on which video signals are digitally compressed. Therefore, these

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video signals provide 80 channels of digital video signals, i.e., $20 \times 4 = 80$ channels, depending on the system compression ratio. (See col. 4, lines 25-29.) Nonetheless, Kondo does not disclose a system wherein "the RF channels are mapped to the programming signals independent of an equally-distributive relationship between the RF channels and the programming signals," as shown in Figure 6. The system of the present claim is configured so that RF channels and the programming channels are not dependent on an equally distributed or proportionately corresponding relationship. Therefore, claim 12 is not rendered obvious by the Kondo or Reed reference.

Dependent Claims 13-21

Dependent claims 13-21 incorporate by reference the limitations of independent claim 12, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons that claim 12 is allowable. The Applicant submits that if the method of claim 12 is novel and non-obvious, the claims that depend therefrom are also novel and non-obvious. Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that the newly presented dependent claims recite additional novel and non-obvious features which are not taught or suggested by the references.

Independent Claim 22

Claim 22 is a newly added independent claim. Claim 22 teaches a method of "identifying a program selection in a passenger entertainment system," and is similarly structured to independent claim 12. Claim 22 is further structured to include additional recitations regarding the method of channel identification in such a passenger entertainment system. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 is not taught or suggested by the Kondo or Reed references and is therefore allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 18-1722. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 18-1722.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 12/12/2006

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